

2. A method of using a system with at least one of an audio, an image, and a video comprising a plurality of frames comprising:

- (a) providing a preferences description, describing preferences of a user with respect to the use of said at least one of said audio, image, and video, where said description includes multiple attributes; and
- (b) providing a media attribute of said preferences description describing the quality of encoding said at least one of audio, image, and video.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said at least one of audio, image, and video is at least one of said audio and video.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein said quality of encoding includes a first quality and a second quality, where said first quality is less than said second quality.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein encoding said at least one of said audio and video using said first quality results in the storage of said at least one of said audio and video in less bytes than encoding said at least one of said audio and video using said second quality.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein said encoding uses a digital compression technique.

7. The method of claim 5 further comprising selecting either said first quality and said second quality based upon available storage for said at least one of said audio and video.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said selecting is automatically performed by said system.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein said selecting is prompted to a user of said system for selection.

10. The method of claim 5 further comprising:

- (a) at least one of viewing and listening to a portion of said at least one of said audio and video;
- (b) pausing said at least one of said viewing and listening to said portion;
- (c) storing said portion subsequent to the location that said portion was paused while said at least one of said viewing and listening is paused;
- (d) resuming said at least one of said viewing and listening of said portion at the location that said portion was paused; and
- (e) selecting either said first quality and said second quality for said storing of said portion subsequent.

11. The method of claim 4 further comprising selecting either said first quality and said second quality based upon the type of content of said at least one of said audio and video.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein sports programming of said type of content is automatically encoded at said second quality by said system.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein nature programming of said type of content is automatically encoded at said first quality by said system.

14. The method of claim 4 further comprising said system automatically selecting either said first quality and said second quality based upon other attributes of preferences description.

15. The method of claim 4 further comprising said system automatically selecting either said first quality and said second quality based upon attributes of a system preferences description.

16. The method of claim 4 further comprising said system automatically selecting either said first quality and said second quality based upon attributes of a program preferences description.

17. The method of claim 4 further comprising said system automatically selecting either said first quality and said second quality based upon predefined relationships between a plurality of attributes of said preference descriptions.

18. The method of claim 17 further comprising said selecting based upon attributes of a program preference descriptions.

19. The method of claim 18 further comprising said selecting based upon attributes of a system preference descriptions.

20. The method of claim 4 further comprising an agent of said system that selects either said first quality and said second quality based upon prior selections of said either said first quality and said second quality.

21. A system for use with at least one of a broadcast of an audio and a video comprising a plurality of frames comprising:

- (a) said system receiving said broadcast of said at least one of audio and video;
- (b) said system including a storage device for said received broadcast said at least one of audio and video; and

- (c) said system selectively encoding at one of a plurality of different qualities said received broadcast of said at least one of said audio and video for storage on said storage device.

22. The system of claim 21 wherein said encoding includes a first quality that results in the storage of less bytes than encoding using a second quality.

23. The system of claim 22 further comprising selecting either said first quality and said second quality based upon available storage on said storage device.

24. The system of claim 23 wherein said selecting is automatically performed by said system.

25. The method of claim 23 wherein said selecting is prompted to a user of said system for selection.

26. The system of claim 22 further comprising:

- (a) storing said at least one of audio and video on said storage device while at least one of listening and viewing of said at least one of audio and video is paused; and
- (b) said storing of (a) selectable by said system.

27. The system of claim 22 further comprising selecting either said first quality and said second quality based upon the type of content of said at least one of said audio and video.

28. The method of claim 22 further comprising said system automatically selecting either said first quality and said second quality based upon user preferences.

29. The system of claim 22 further comprising said system automatically selecting either said first quality and said second quality based upon said at least one of audio and video.

30. The system of claim 22 further comprising said system selecting either said first quality and said second quality based upon prior selections of said either said first quality and said second quality.

31. A method of using a system with at least one of an audio and a video comprising a plurality of frames comprising:

- (a) providing a preferences description, describing preferences of a user with respect to the use of said at least one of said audio and video, where said description includes multiple attributes; and
- (b) providing a storage attribute of said preferences description describing the quality of encoding of said at least one of audio and video while said

system pauses at least one of listening and viewing of said audio and video.

32. The method of claim 31 further comprising storing said audio and video on a storage device while said system is paused.

33. The method of claim 32 further comprising resuming said at least one of listening and viewing.

34. The method of claim 33 further comprising said encoding said at least one of said audio and video using said first quality results in the storage of said at least one of said audio and video in less bytes than encoding said at least one of said audio and video using said second quality.

35. The method of claim 34 further comprising selecting either said first quality and said second quality based upon available storage for said at least one of said audio and video.

36. The method of claim 35 wherein said selecting is automatically performed by said system.

37. The method of claim 35 further comprising selecting from among said first quality, said second quality, and a third quality.

38. A method of using a system with at least one of an audio and a video comprising a plurality of frames comprising:

- (a) providing a preferences description, describing preferences of a user with respect to the use of said at least one of said audio and video, where said description includes multiple attributes; and
- (b) providing a storage attribute of said preferences description describing the quality of encoding of said at least one of audio and video based upon the content of said at least one of audio and video.

39. The method of claim 38 further comprising selecting either a first quality and a second quality based upon the type of content of said at least one of said audio and video.

40. The method of claim 39 further comprising selecting from among said first quality, said second quality, and a third quality.

41. The method of claim 39 wherein sports programming of said content is automatically encoded at said second quality by said system.

42. The method of claim 41 wherein nature programming of said content is automatically encoded at said first quality by said system.

43. The method of claim 39 further comprising automatically selecting either said first quality and said second quality based upon attributes of said preferences description in addition to said content.

44. The method of claim 39 further comprising automatically selecting either said first quality and said second quality based upon predefined relationships between a plurality of attributes of said preference descriptions.

45. The method of claim 44 further comprising said selecting based upon attributes of a program preference descriptions.

46. The method of claim 44 further comprising said selecting based upon attributes of a system preference descriptions.

47. The method of claim 39 further comprising an agent of said system that selects either said first quality and said second quality based upon prior selections of said either said first quality and said second quality together with said content.

48. The method of claim 47 wherein said selecting is automatically performed by said system.

49. A method of using a system with at least one of an audio and a video comprising a plurality of frames comprising:

- (a) providing a preferences description, describing preferences of a user with respect to the use of said at least one of said audio and video, where said description includes multiple attributes; and
- (b) providing a storage attribute of said preferences description describing the quality of encoding of said at least one of audio and video based upon the combination of at least one other attribute of said preferences description.

50. The method of claim 49 further comprising selecting either a first quality and a second quality based upon the type of content of said at least one of said audio and video.

51. The method of claim 50 further comprising selecting from among said first quality, said second quality, and a third quality.

52. The method of claim 49 wherein one of said at least two other attributes of said preferences description includes a content attribute describing said at least one of audio and video.

53. The method of claim 49 further comprising said selecting based upon attributes of a program preference descriptions.

54. The method of claim 53 further comprising said selecting based upon at least one attribute of a system preference descriptions.

55. The method of claim 50 further comprising an agent of said system that selects either said first quality and said second quality based upon prior selections of said either said first quality and said second quality together with said at least two other attributes of said preferences description.

56. The method of claim 50 wherein said selecting is automatically performed by said system.

57. A method of using a system with at least one of an audio and a video comprising a plurality of frames comprising:

- (a) providing a preferences description, describing preferences of a user with respect to the use of said at least one of said audio and video, where said description includes multiple attributes; and
- (b) providing a storage attribute of said preferences description describing the quality of encoding of said at least one of audio and video based upon an agent of said system that selects either a first quality and a second quality based upon prior selections of said either said first quality and said second quality.

58. The method of claim 57 wherein said quality of encoding is further based upon at least two other attributes of said preferences description.

59. The method of claim 57 wherein said quality of encoding is further based upon the content of said at least one of audio and video.

60. The method of claim 57 wherein said selecting is automatically performed by said system.

61. A method of using a system with at least one of an audio and a video comprising a plurality of frames comprising:

- (a) providing a preferences description, describing preferences of a user with respect to the use of said at least one of said audio and video, where said description includes multiple attributes; and
- (b) providing a time attribute of said preferences description describing at least one of:
 - (i) a first time to start obtaining said at least one of audio and video prior to the scheduled time of said at least one of audio and video; and
 - (ii) a second time to end obtaining said at least one of audio and video after the schedule time of said at least one of audio and video.

62. The method of claim 61 wherein said scheduled time is the time period of at least one of an audio program and a video program.

63. The method of claim 62 wherein said first time is selected based upon the content of said at least one of an audio program and a video program.

64. The method of claim 62 wherein said second time is selected based upon the content of said at least one of an audio program and a video program.

65. The method of claim 63 wherein said content is described in said preferences description.

66. The method of claim 64 wherein said content is described in said preferences description.

67. The method of claim 62 wherein said first time is selected based upon the type of said at least one of an audio program and a video program.

68. The method of claim 62 wherein said second time is selected based upon the type of said at least one of an audio program and a video program.

69. The method of claim 67 wherein said type is described in said preferences description.

70. The method of claim 68 wherein said type is described in said preferences description.

71. The method of claim 68 wherein said type includes sports programs.
72. The method of claim 68 wherein said type includes sitcoms.
73. A method of using a system with at least one of an audio and a video comprising a plurality of frames comprising:
 - (a) providing a preferences description, describing preferences of a user with respect to the use of said at least one of said audio and video, where said description includes multiple attributes; and
 - (b) providing a layer attribute of said preferences description indicating the number of layers of supplemental data auxiliary to said at least one of said audio and video.
74. The method of claim 73 wherein said number of layers relates to at least one of HTML documents and XML documents.
75. The method of claim 73 further comprising retrieving said supplemental data prior to at least one of listening and viewing said at least one of audio and video.
76. The method of claim 75 wherein said number of layers is determined in accordance with the available storage for said supplemental data.

77. The method of claim 75 further comprising ceasing said retrieving of said supplemental data prior to retrieving all said number of layers.

78. The method of claim 73 further comprising said number of layers being determined in accordance with the available storage for said supplemental data.

79. The method of claim 78 wherein said available storage is determined by the user.

80. A system for use with at least one an audio and a video comprising a plurality of frames comprising:

- (a) said system receiving said at least one of audio and video;
- (b) said system including a storage device for said at least one of audio and video; and
- (c) said system receiving a selected number of layers of supplemental data auxiliary to said at least one of said audio and video.

81. The system of claim 80 wherein said number of layers relates to at least one of HTML documents and XML documents.

82. The system of claim 80 further comprising retrieving said supplemental data prior to at least one of listening and viewing said at least one of audio and video.

83. The system of claim 80 wherein said number of layers is determined in accordance with the available storage for said supplemental data.

84. The system of claim 82 further comprising ceasing said retrieving of said supplemental data prior to retrieving all said number of layers.

85. The system of claim 80 further comprising said number of layers being determined in accordance with the available storage for said supplemental data.

86. The system of claim 83 wherein said available storage is determined by the user.

87. The system of claim 80 wherein said number of layers is selected based upon the content of said at least one of audio and video.

88. The system of claim 80 wherein said number of layers is selected based upon the type of said at least one of audio and video.

89. A method of using a system with at least one of an audio and a video comprising a plurality of frames comprising:

(a) providing a preferences description, describing preferences of a user with respect to the use of said at least one of said audio and video, where said description includes multiple attributes;

- (b) providing at least one of:
 - (i) a content attribute of said preferences description related to the content of said at least one of audio and video;
 - (ii) a type attribute of said preferences description related to the type of said at least one of audio and video; and
- (c) determining the number of layers of supplemental data auxiliary to said at least one of said audio and video based at least in part upon said content attribute and said type attribute.

90. The method of claim 89 wherein said number of layers relates to at least one of HTML documents and XML documents.

91. The method of claim 89 further comprising retrieving said supplemental data prior to at least one of listening and viewing said at least one of audio and video.

92. The method of claim 89 wherein said number of layers is determined, at least in part, in accordance with the available storage for said supplemental data.

93. The method of claim 91 further comprising ceasing said retrieving of said supplemental data prior to retrieving all said number of layers.

94. A method of using a system with at least one of an audio and a video comprising a plurality of frames comprising:

- (a) providing a preferences description, describing preferences of a user with respect to the use of said at least one of said audio and video, where said description includes multiple attributes; and
- (b) providing a mode attribute of said preferences description describing the user's preferences with respect to at least one of:
 - (i) a forward speed at which the system provides a fast forward presentation of said at least one of audio and video;
 - (ii) a reverse speed at which the system provides a fast reverse presentation of said at least one of audio and video; and
 - (iii) a time interval for skipping a portion of the presentation of said at least one of audio and video.

95. The method of claim 94 wherein said mode attribute includes said forward speed.

96. The method of claim 94 wherein said mode attribute includes said reverse speed.

97. The method of claim 94 wherein said mode attribute includes said time interval.

98. The method of claim 95 wherein said forward speed is selected based upon, at least in part, other attributes of said preferences description.

99. The method of claim 96 wherein said reverse speed is selected based upon, at least in part, other attributes of said preferences description.

100. The method of claim 97 wherein said time interval is selected based upon, at least in part, other attributes of said preferences description.

101. The method of claim 95 wherein said forward speed is automatically determined by said system for one of said at least one of audio and video based upon, at least in part, said system monitoring previous selections of said forward speed for other respective said at least one of audio and video.

102. The method of claim 96 wherein said reverse speed is automatically determined by said system for one of said at least one of audio and video based upon, at least in part, said system monitoring previous selections of said reverse speed for other respective said at least one of audio and video.

103. The method of claim 97 wherein said time interval is automatically determined by said system for one of said at least one of audio and video based upon, at least in part, said system monitoring previous selections of said time interval for other respective said at least one of audio and video.

104. A method of using a system with at least one of an audio and a video comprising a plurality of frames comprising:

- (a) providing a preferences description, describing preferences of a user with respect to the use of said at least one of said audio and video, where said description includes multiple attributes; and
- (b) providing a media attribute of said preferences description describing the user's preferences with respect to at least one of:
 - (i) audio representation;
 - (ii) video representation.

105. The method of claim 104 wherein said audio representation includes at least one of MP3, Liquid Audio, and Real Audio.

106. The method of claim 104 wherein said audio representation includes at least one of AC-3, stereo, and Dolby digital.

107. The method of claim 104 wherein said video representation includes letterbox screen and 4:3 aspect ratio screen.

108. A method of using a system with at least one of an audio and a video comprising a plurality of frames comprising:

- (a) providing a preferences description, describing preferences of a user with respect to the use of said at least one of said audio and video, where said description includes multiple attributes; and

(b) providing a creation attribute of said preferences description describing the creation date of said at least one of audio and video.

109. The method of claim 108 wherein said creation date refers to the original creation date of said at least one of audio and video.

110. The method of claim 108 wherein said creation date refers to the remastering date of said at least one of audio and video.

111. The method of claim 108 wherein said creation date is used to select among a plurality of said at least one of audio and video programs.

112. The method of claim 111 wherein said selected programs are stored on a local storage.

113. The method of claim 112 wherein selection is further among a plurality of episodes of the same program.

114. The method of claim 113. wherein said selection is further limited to a desired number of episodes.

115. The method of claim 112 wherein a predetermined number of said selected program of a plurality of episodes are said stored on said local storage.